REMARKS

On page 2 of the Action, claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph on the reason that it is not clear which structures correspond to the first feeding means and the second feeding means. In this respect, please refer to paragraph 0050 of the specification, wherein it is clearly stated that the paired feed rollers 112, 114 and the paired cleaning rollers 115 correspond to the first feed means, and the paired feed rollers 117 and 118 correspond to the second feed means. In regard to claim 12, claim 12 has been amended to obviate the rejection. Please withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In the Action, claims 1, 7, 8, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eto et al. Claims 2-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eto et al. in view of Kamanuma et al. Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eto et al. in view of Kamanuma et al. and Tsuzawa. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eto et al. in view of Ota et al.

In view of the rejections, claim 7 has been cancelled, and the subject matter of claim 7 has been incorporated into claim 1. In association therewith, claims 2, 5 and 11 have been amended. Also, claim 6 has been amended to an independent form. Since claim 6 was not rejected by the cited references, claim 6 is allowable over the prior art of record.

In claim 1, a printer of the invention comprises an exposing section for exposing light as preprocessing on a surface of a recording medium in a form of a separated sheet to form an image on the surface thereof, a developing section for development by pressing the surface of the recording medium preprocessed by the exposing section to form the image on the surface of the recording medium; a recording medium feed path, and first and second feed

means. The first feed means is arranged on an upstream side of the recording medium feed path for continuously feeding the recording medium from the exposing section at a first speed. The second feed means is arranged on a downstream side of the recording medium feed path for continuously feeding the recording medium from the first feeding means to the developing section at a second speed.

In the invention, the recording medium feed path has a main section formed between the exposing section and the developing section, and a switchback section extending from the main section for extending a length of the main section. Also, the second feed means is actuated separately from the first feed means so that the second speed is different from the first speed. Particularly, the first feed means is located in the main section to feed the recording medium fast, and the second feed means is located in the switchback section to feed the recording medium slowly.

In claim 1, it is now clearly recited that the printer has the exposing section and the developing section, which are used by Cycolor printing system. In this system, a stabilizing or dark time is required after the recording medium is exposed to light and before development, so that the recording medium can be developed with sufficiently color. In view of the situation, in the invention, the medium feed path has the main section and the switchback section to provide long path while providing the size of the machine small. Also, the first and second feed means providing different speeds are formed along the medium feed path.

In Eto et al., a copying machine includes a continuous photosensitive sheet 2 transferring from a supply shaft 1a to a take-up shaft 1b, an exposure section P1 to form a latent image on the photosensitive sheet 2, and a development section P2 having press rollers 6a, 6b. The sheet 2 is exposed at the exposure section P1, and is transferred through a buffer roller 3 to the development section P2, wherein an image receiving sheet 8 is

supplied under the sheet 2 to transfer the image on the sheet 2 to the sheet 8.

In the invention, the recording medium in a form of a separated sheet is processed to form the image on the surface thereof. In Eto et al., what is processed at the exposure section P1 and the development section P2 is the continuous photosensitive sheet, different from the invention.

In claim 1 of the invention, the recording medium feed path has a main section formed between the exposing section and the developing section, and a switchback section extending from the main section for extending a length of the main section. In Eto et al., the continuous sheet is processed through the exposure section P1 and the development section P2. A buffer roller 3 is moved in the direction of arrow A to draw the sheet 2 from the supply shaft 1a while the sheet is exposed to light in the exposure section P1, and when the exposure is completed, the buffer roller 3 moves in the direction of arrow B. However, the movement of the buffer roller 3 does not constitute the switchback section, because the sheet 2 continuously transferred in one direction without changing the moving direction of the sheet 2. There is no switchback section extending from the main section for transferring the sheet in the different directions in Eto et al.

Also, in claim 1, it is defined that the first and second feed means are disposed in the recording medium feed path between the exposing section and the developing section, and the second feed means is actuated separately from the first feed means so that the second speed is different from the first speed. In Eto et al., the buffer roller 3 is only located between the exposure section P1 and the development section P2. Namely, there are no first and second feed means arranged on the upstream and downstream sides of the feed path. Eto. et al. does not have the first and second feed means of the invention.

The features of claim 1 of the invention are not suggested in Eto et al. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Eto et al.

In Kamanuma et al., an image forming apparatus includes a photoreceptor drum 121, fixing rollers 176, 177 for heating and pressurizing a sheet with toner thereon, and a switchback portion 19 with a roller 191. The switchback portion 19 is used in a dual-surface copying mode, wherein the sheet with an image on one side is returned to the drum 121 to put another image on the other side of the sheet.

In the invention, the recording medium feed path has the main section formed between the exposing section and the developing section, and the switchback section extending from the main section for extending the length of the main section. In Kamanuma et al., the drum 121 and the fixing rollers 176, 177 correspond to the exposing section and developing section, respectively. In this case, the switchback portion 19 is located after the fixing rollers 176, 177. Therefore, the location of the switchback portion in Kamanuma et al. is different from the invention. Further, the switchback portion 19 does not extend the main section between the exposing section and the developing section, as defined in the invention.

Also, in the invention, the second feed means is actuated separately from the first feed means so that the second speed is different from the first speed. In Kamanuma et al., the sheet is transferred between the drum 121 and rollers 176, 177, and in the switchback portion 191. However, the speeds transferred in these portions are not mentioned.

Therefore, the features of claim 1 of the invention are not disclosed or suggested in Kamanuma et al.

In regard to Tsuzawa, cutting means 88 is referred to in the Action, wherein a continuous photographic paper 54 having images thereon is cut by a cutter 84, and is immediately transferred to a

sorter section 92. No special transfer means is provided between the cutter 84 and the sorter section 92. Therefore, there is no third feed means or explanation that the paper cut at the cutter 84 is transferred at a specific speed. The features of the invention are not disclosed or suggested in Tsuzawa.

Ota et al. was cited to show a cleaning roller 54 in a printer. The cleaning roller 54 is designed to contact a fusing roller 51 contacting the sheet to clean the fusing roller 51. In claim 11, the cleaning means directly cleans the surface of the recording medium processed by the exposing section, not cleaning a roller. Thus, the cleaning means of claim 11 is different from the cleaning roller 54 of Ota et al.

As explained above, the cited references do not disclose or suggest the features of the claims in the invention. The invention is not obvious from the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

A one month extension of time is hereby requested. A credit card authorization form in the amount of $110.00 is attached herewith for the one month extension of time.

Respectfully Submitted,

HAUPTMAN KANESAKA BERNER
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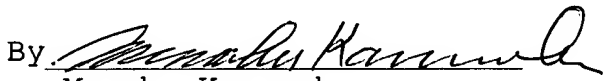
By 
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